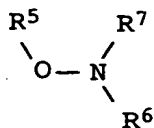


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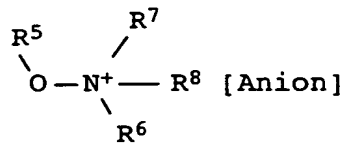
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We claim:-

1. A process for the production of semifinished products and intermediates in the production of leather using one or more organic polyelectrolytes, comprising at least one of the following steps:
 - (a) Addition of one or more polyelectrolytes and from 0 to 0.7% by weight, based on the salted weight, of lime immediately before or during the liming,
 - (b) addition of one or more polyelectrolytes before or during the deliming,
 - (c) addition of one or more polyelectrolytes before or during the bating,
 - (d) addition of one or more polyelectrolytes and a total of from 0 to 3% by weight, based on the pelt weight, of an alkali metal or alkaline earth metal salt immediately before or in the pickle.
2. A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the organic polyelectrolyte used is a polyampholyte.
3. A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the organic polyelectrolyte used is a polyacid.
4. A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the organic polyelectrolyte used is a polybase.
5. A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the organic polyelectrolyte used is a polysalt.
6. A process as claimed in any of the preceding claims, wherein one or more hydroxylamine compounds of the formula XV a or XV b



XV a



XV b

- where R⁵ to R⁸ are identical or different and are selected from

hydrogen,

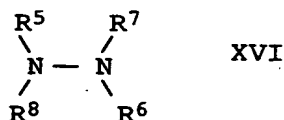
C₁-C₂₀-alkyl,

5 C₆-C₁₄-aryl,

and the anion is selected from halide, sulfate, hydrogen sulfate, phosphate, hydrogen phosphate and dihydrogen phosphate or mixtures thereof,

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or one or more hydrazine compounds of the formula XVI,



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which may be protonated and in which R⁵ to R⁸ are as defined above.

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are furthermore added in step (a).

7. A process as claimed in claim 6, wherein hydroxylamine is added in step (a).

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8. A process as claimed in claim 6, wherein one or more hydroxylamine compounds of the formula XV a or XV b or one or more hydrazine compounds of the formula XVI are used together with alkali metal hydroxide and alkali metal carbonate in step (a).

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9. A semifinished product or intermediate in the production of leather, produced by a process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 8.

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10. The use of a semifinished product or intermediate in the production of leather, produced by a process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 8, for the production of leather.

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